The Little Mermaid

La Sirenita a Menudo

Bilingual Fairy Tales
ENGLISH | SPANISH

retold by Melissa Blackwell Burke

illustrated by Shelley Brant

Before Reading Activities

Notes to Parents and Teachers:

In Stage 2 of literacy development (confirmation and fluency), a child can typically read simple, familiar stories and selections with increasing fluency. Have children practice reading fluently to support this stage of literacy development. Take turns reading pages with your child or students so you can model what fluent reading sounds like. Ask them to recount story details, such as character names and event sequences.

Before Reading:

Bilingual books help build vocabulary in both languages. As your child or students read, ask them to look for these words and tell you how they are related:

blue	azul
legs	piernas
pearls	perlas
prince	principe
sisters	hermanas

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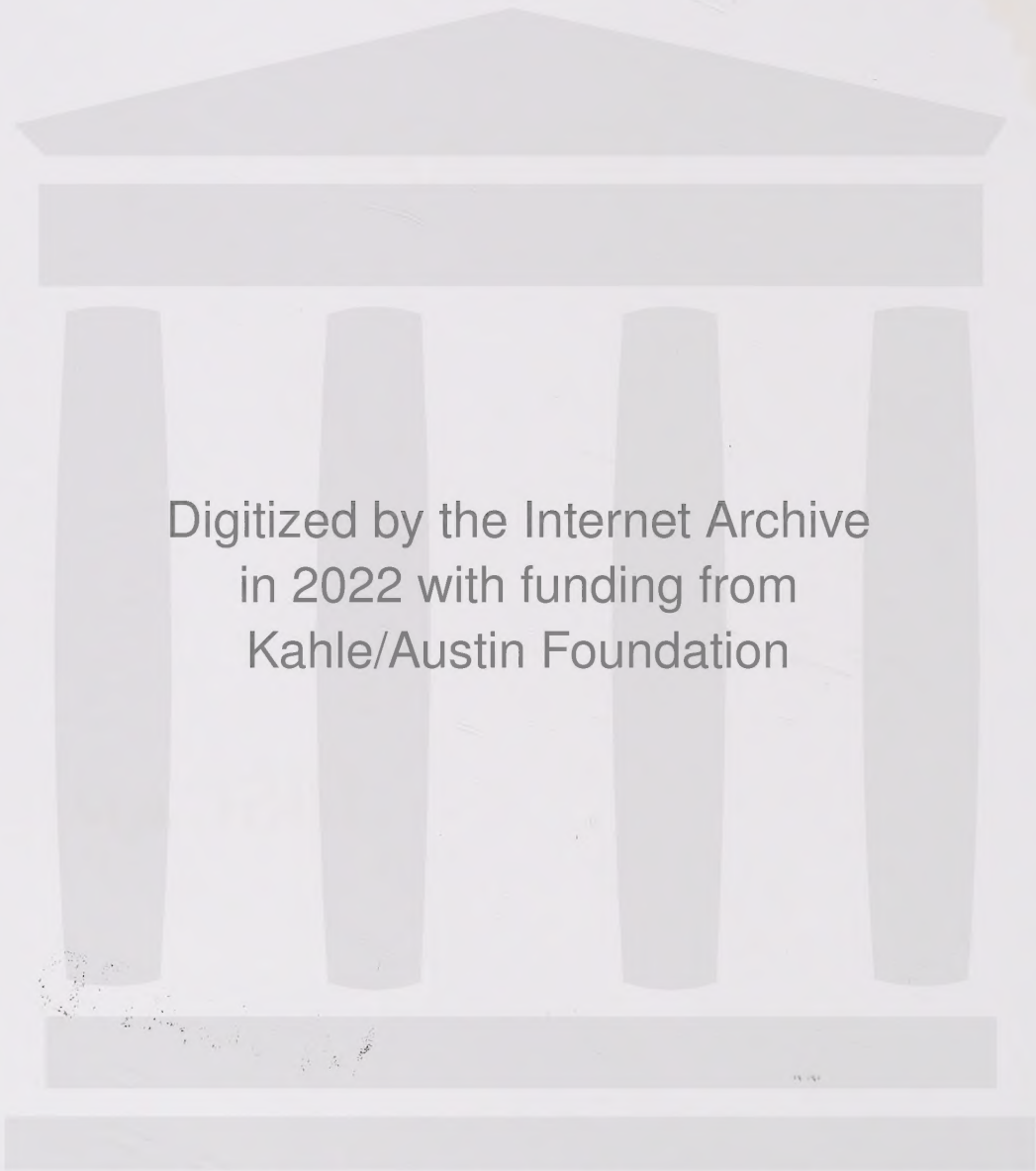

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Rourke Educational Media

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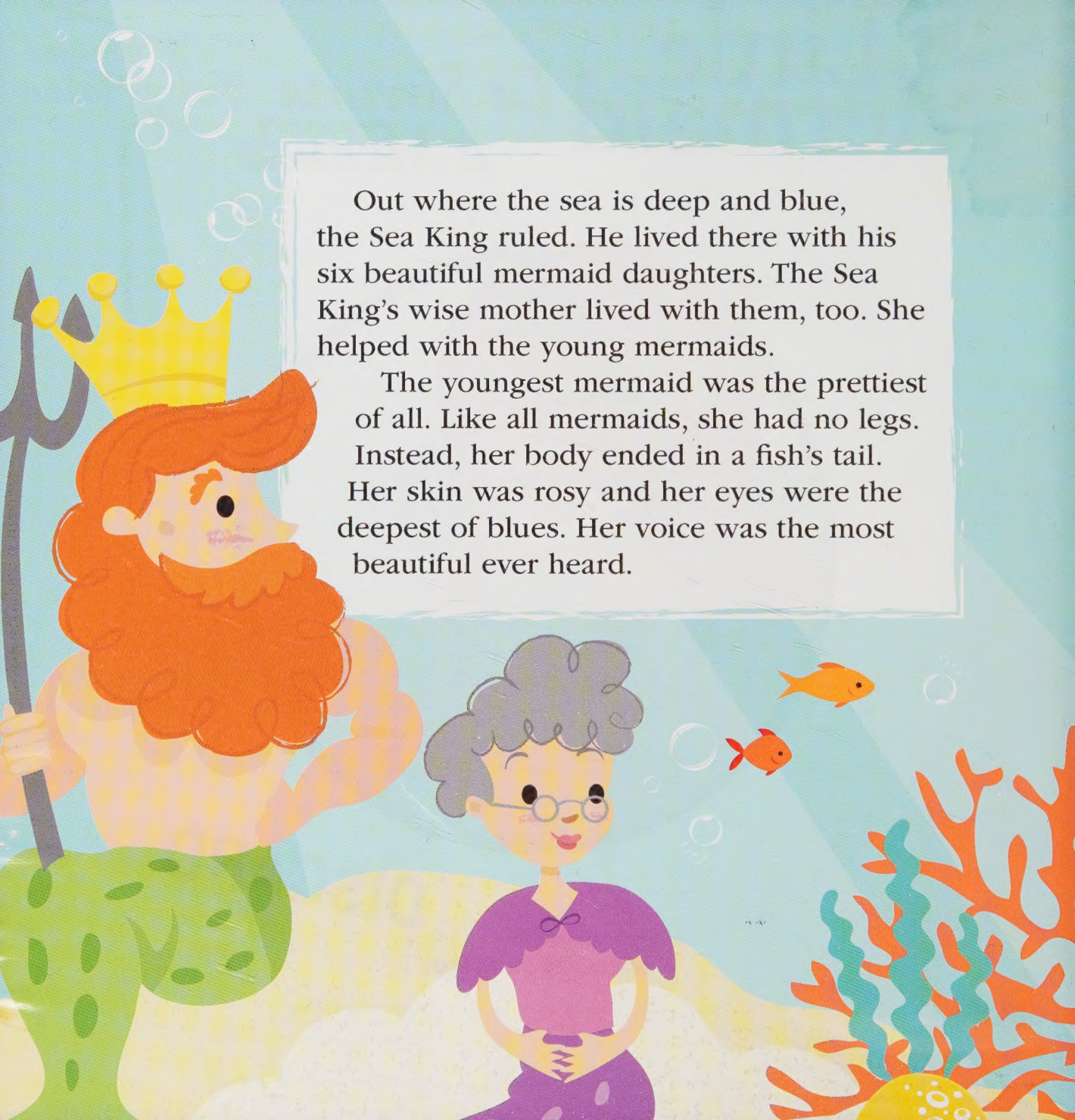


Out where the sea is deep and blue, the Sea King ruled. He lived there with his six beautiful mermaid daughters. The Sea King's wise mother lived with them, too. She helped with the young mermaids.

The youngest mermaid was the prettiest of all. Like all mermaids, she had no legs. Instead, her body ended in a fish's tail. Her skin was rosy and her eyes were the deepest of blues. Her voice was the most beautiful ever heard.

Allá donde el mar es profundo y azul, reinaba el Rey Marino. Vivía allí con sus seis bellas hijas sirenas. La sabia mamá del Rey Marino también vivía con ellos. Ayudaba con las jóvenes sirenas.

La sirena más joven era la más bella de todas. Como todas las sirenas, no tenía piernas. En lugar de ellas, su cuerpo terminaba en una cola de pez. Su piel era rosada y sus ojos del azul más intenso. Su voz era la más bonita que se ha escuchado.

The Little Mermaid often sang with her sisters. All day long, they sang and played. In the evening, they listened to their grandmother tell stories. The Little Mermaid especially loved the tales of life above the sea, where there were stars and flowers and trees.

La Sirenita a menudo cantaba con sus hermanas. Todo el día, cantaban y jugaban. Por la noche, escuchaban las historias que les contaba su abuela. La Sirenita amaba especialmente las historias de la vida por encima del mar, donde había estrellas y flores y árboles.

"When you are fifteen, you may swim to the top," her grandmother said. "You can sit in the moonlight and see for yourself."

The Little Mermaid could not wait to see land. She thought of little else except the wonderful sights to come.

—Cuando tengas quince años, podrás nadar a la superficie —le dijo su abuela—. Podrás sentarte a la luz de la Luna y verla tú misma.

La Sirenita tenía muchas ganas de ver la tierra. No pensaba en nada más que en las maravillosas vistas que vería.

Finally, the Little Mermaid's fifteenth birthday came. Her grandmother gave her a necklace of pearls. Then, light as a bubble, the Little Mermaid rose to the surface.

The Little Mermaid raised her head above the waves. She swam near a big ship. She saw many people in fancy clothes. One handsome young man stood out from the crowd. He was a prince, celebrating his birthday.

Finalmente, llegó el cumpleaños de los quince años de la Sirenita. Su abuela le regaló un collar de perlas. Entonces, ligera como una burbuja, la Sirenita comenzó a subir a la superficie.

La Sirenita levantó la cabeza sobre las olas. Nadó cerca de un barco grande. Vio muchas personas con ropas elegantes. Un joven muy guapo destacaba entre la multitud. Era un príncipe que celebraba su cumpleaños.

In an instant, the sea that had been so calm turned restless. Heavy clouds appeared. Thunder clapped. Lightning shot across the sky. Great waves began to pound the ship. As the storm raged, the ship's mast snapped in two.

En un instante, el mar que estaba tan calmado se volvió agitado. Aparecieron unas nubes densas. Sonaron truenos. Los rayos cruzaban el cielo. Unas olas enormes comenzaron a golpear el barco. Al empeorar la tormenta, el mástil del barco se partió por la mitad.

The Little Mermaid saw the prince fall into the sea. She knew at once that she must save him. She dove deep into the water. At last, she found the prince and swam with him toward land. She held his head above water.

La Sirenita vio cómo el príncipe se caía al mar. Supo enseguida que tenía que salvarle. Buceó hacia las profundidades del agua. Por fin, encontró al príncipe y nadó con él hacia tierra firme. Le sujetó la cabeza por encima del agua.

The Little Mermaid let the waves carry them to the shore. She gently laid the prince on the sand. She kissed his forehead and dove back into the sea. The Little Mermaid waited behind some rocks. She wanted to make sure someone would come to help the prince.

La Sirenita dejó que las aguas los llevaran a la orilla. Dejó al príncipe con cuidado sobre la arena. Le besó la frente y se metió otra vez en el agua. La Sirenita esperó detrás de unas rocas. Quería asegurarse de que alguien fuera a ayudar al príncipe.

Soon, a young woman hurried toward the prince. He sat up and smiled at the woman.

The Little Mermaid felt sad. The prince hadn't smiled at her. He didn't know that she had saved him. Full of sorrow, the Little Mermaid swam home.

Pronto, una mujer joven se apresuró hacia el príncipe. Él se levantó y sonrió a la mujer.

La Sirenita se sintió triste. El príncipe no le había sonreído a ella. No sabía que le había salvado. Llena de tristeza, la Sirenita nadó hacia su hogar.

Time passed, but the Little Mermaid was still sad when she thought about the prince. She found out that he lived in a palace by the sea. The Little Mermaid swam up each night to watch the prince. She grew even fonder of him.

Pasó el tiempo, pero la Sirenita seguía triste cuando pensaba en el príncipe. Descubrió que vivía en un palacio junto al mar. La Sirenita nadaba allí cada noche para observar al príncipe. Cada vez le gustaba más.

The Little Mermaid longed to know more about the land above the sea. "Grandmother, do humans live forever?" she asked.

"A human soul can live forever," explained Grandmother. "Mermaids just become foam on the water."

La Sirenita ansiaba saber más acerca de la tierra que había por encima del mar. —Abuela, ¿los humanos viven para siempre? —le preguntó.

—Un alma humana puede vivir para siempre —explicó la abuela—. Las sirenas se convierten en espuma sobre el agua.

"How could I get a human soul?" asked the Little Mermaid.

"The only way is for a human to love you with all his heart," Grandmother said.

At that moment, the Little Mermaid knew what she wanted to do. She made her way to the Sea Witch's home where sea snakes rolled around in the bubbling sand.

—¿Cómo podría conseguir un alma humana? —preguntó la Sirenita.

—La única manera es que un humano te ame con todo su corazón —le dijo la abuela.

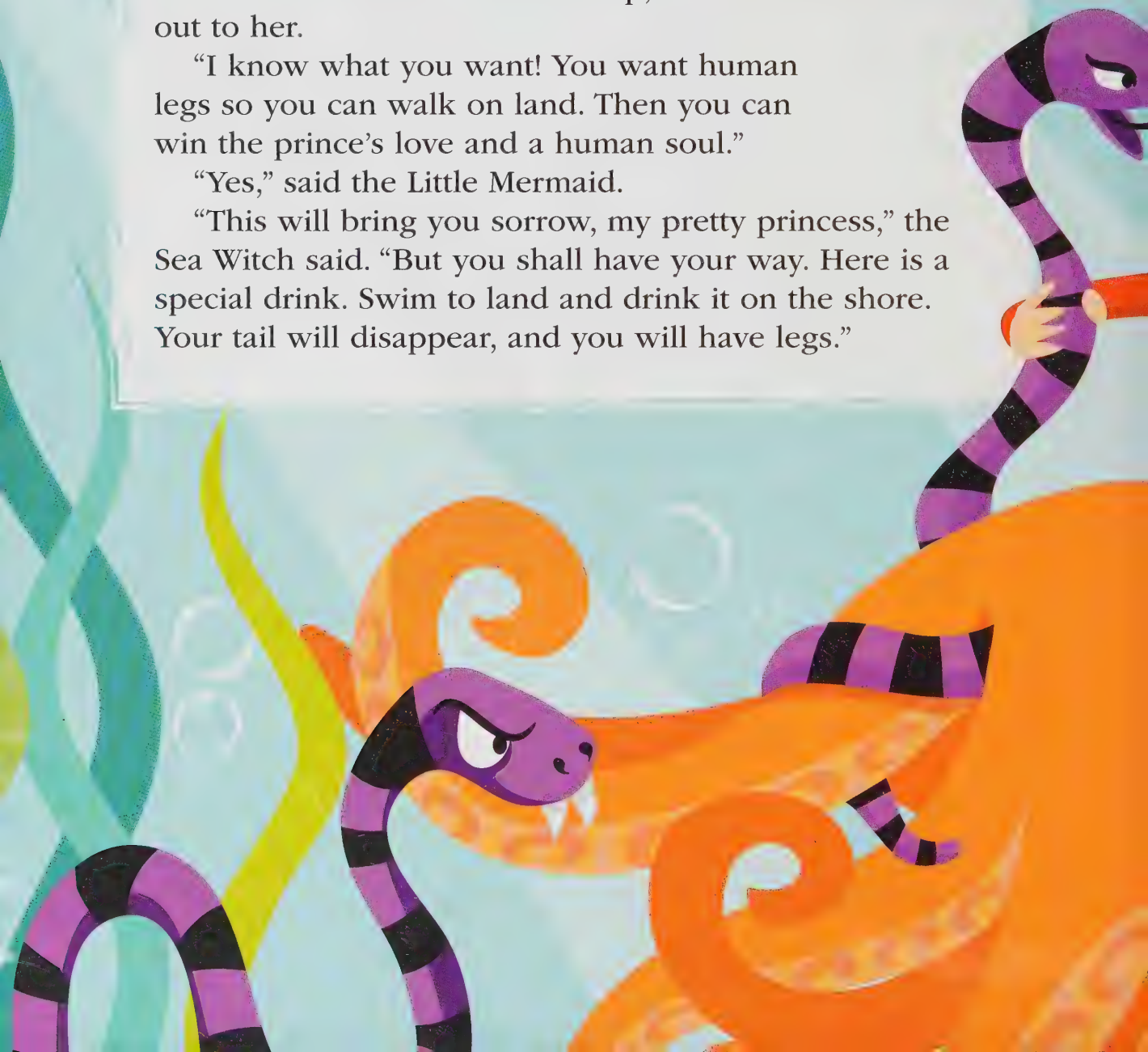
En ese momento, la Sirenita supo lo que quería hacer. Fue hasta el hogar de la Bruja Marina, donde las serpientes marinas reptaban por la arena burbujeante.

As the Little Mermaid swam up, the Sea Witch called out to her.

"I know what you want! You want human legs so you can walk on land. Then you can win the prince's love and a human soul."

"Yes," said the Little Mermaid.

"This will bring you sorrow, my pretty princess," the Sea Witch said. "But you shall have your way. Here is a special drink. Swim to land and drink it on the shore. Your tail will disappear, and you will have legs."



Al acercarse nadando la Sirenita, la Bruja Marina le llamó.

—¡Sé lo que quieres! Quieres piernas humanas para poder caminar sobre la tierra. Así podrás ganarte el amor del príncipe y un alma humana.

—Sí —dijo la Sirenita.

—Eso te traerá tristeza, mi hermosa princesa —dijo la Bruja Marina—. Pero tendrás lo que deseas. Esta es una bebida especial. Nada hasta la tierra y bébetela en la orilla. Tu cola desaparecerá y tendrás piernas.

"Know this," said the Sea Witch. "You can never again be a mermaid. And if the prince marries another, you will turn into sea-foam."

The Little Mermaid turned pale. "I will do it," she said, trembling.

"There is one more thing. I must be paid. You have the sweetest voice on land or sea. Your voice is the payment I demand."

"My voice!" cried the Little Mermaid.

—Debes saber esto —dijo la Bruja Marina—. Nunca jamás podrás ser una sirena otra vez. Y si el príncipe se casa con otra, te convertirás en espuma de mar.

La Sirenita se volvió pálida. —Lo haré —dijo, temblando.

—Una cosa más. Debes pagarla. Tienes la voz más dulce de toda la tierra y el mar. Tu voz es el pago que te pido.

—¡Mi voz! —exclamó la Sirenita.

The Little Mermaid thought about her love for the prince. "Let it be so," she said sadly.

And with that, the Little Mermaid's voice left her. She could neither speak nor sing anymore.

The Little Mermaid took the Sea Witch's magic drink and swam toward shore. Then, she sat on the steps of the prince's palace. She swallowed the drink and fell into a deep sleep.

La Sirenita pensó en su amor por el príncipe. —Que así sea —dijo con tristeza.

Y de esta manera, la voz de la Sirenita desapareció. Ya no podía ni hablar ni cantar.

La Sirenita agarró la bebida mágica de la Bruja Marina y nadó hacia la orilla. Entonces, se sentó sobre los escalones del palacio del príncipe. Se tragó la bebida y cayó en un sueño profundo.

When the Little Mermaid woke up, the prince stood over her. He asked her who she was and where she had come from. The Little Mermaid couldn't speak. At first, she didn't know why, but then she remembered. She saw that her fish's tail was gone. She had two lovely legs instead.

The Little Mermaid gazed at the prince with sad blue eyes. The prince took her hand and walked her to the palace.

Cuando la Sirenita se despertó, el príncipe estaba junto a ella. Le preguntó quién era y de dónde venía. La Sirenita no podía hablar. Al principio, no sabía por qué, pero luego lo recordó. Vio que ya no tenía su cola de pez. En su lugar había dos bonitas piernas.

La Sirenita miró al príncipe con tristes ojos azules. El príncipe tomó su mano y la acompañó al palacio.

As time passed, the mermaid and the prince spent every day together. They rode horses. They climbed mountains to look down at the clouds.

Con el paso del tiempo, la sirena y el príncipe pasaban cada día juntos. Montaban a caballo. Subían montañas para mirar las nubes desde arriba.

The prince grew very fond of the Little Mermaid. "You are like the woman who saved me," he said. "She is the only one in the world I can ever love."

The mermaid wished the prince knew who had really saved him. She sighed.

Al príncipe le gustaba mucho la Sirenita. —Eres como la mujer que me salvó —le dijo—. Ella es la única persona del mundo a la que puedo amar.

La sirena deseaba que el príncipe supiera quién le salvó de verdad. Dio un suspiro.

Very soon, the royal family wanted the prince to marry. They chose a princess from the next kingdom for him.

The prince sailed to the neighboring kingdom. He took the Little Mermaid on board the ship with him.

When the prince met the princess, he was amazed. "It is you!" he cried. "The one who saved me! Oh, I am too happy."

He turned to the Little Mermaid. "I know you will be happy for me."

The Little Mermaid felt her heart break.

Muy pronto, la familia real quiso que el príncipe se casara. Eligieron una princesa para él de un reino vecino.

El príncipe navegó al reino vecino. Llevó a la Sirenita a bordo del barco con él.

Cuando el príncipe conoció a la princesa, se sorprendió. —¡Eres tú! —exclamó—. ¡La que me salvó la vida! Oh, estoy muy feliz.

Se volvió hacia la Sirenita. —Sé que estarás muy feliz por mí.

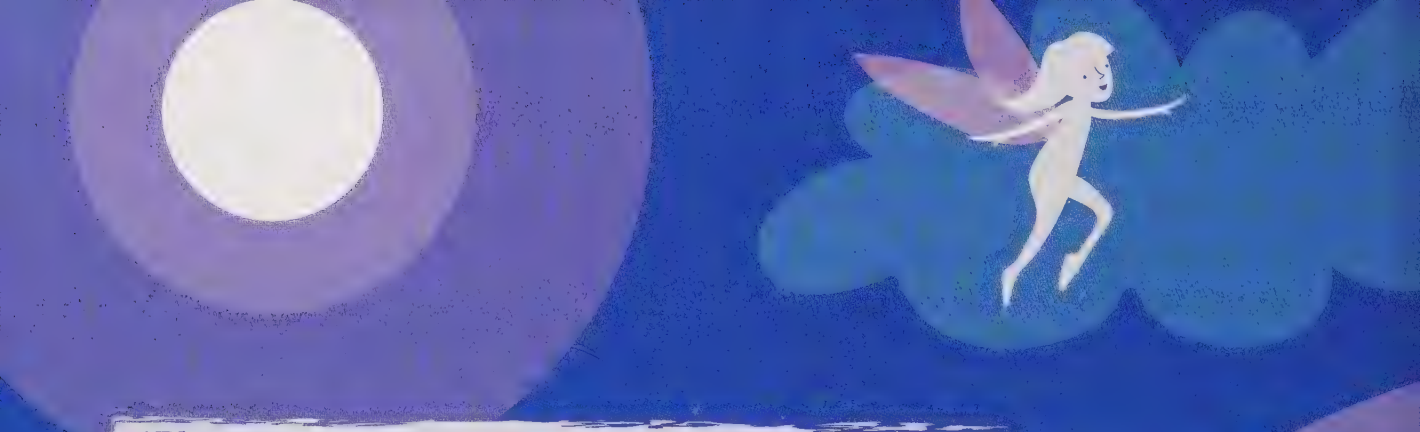
La Sirenita sintió cómo se le rompía el corazón.

The royal wedding was grand. But the Little Mermaid did not hear the joyful music. She did not see the beauty around her. The Little Mermaid could think only of all she had lost. She knew that very soon she would turn into sea-foam.

La boda real fue magnífica. Pero la Sirenita no oyó la alegre música. No vio la belleza a su alrededor. La Sirenita solo podía pensar en todo lo que había perdido. Sabía que muy pronto se convertiría en espuma de mar.

That night, everyone went on the royal ship. The Little Mermaid stared out at the sea. Just then, her sisters rose up out of the water. "We bring a message from the Sea Witch," they said. "If you push the prince into the sea, you may return to us. Please, do it! Hurry!"

Esa noche, todos subieron al barco real. La Sirenita miró hacia el mar. Justo entonces, sus hermanas subieron a la superficie del agua. —Traemos un mensaje de la Bruja Marina —dijeron—. Si empujas al príncipe al mar, podrás volver con nosotras. ¡Por favor, hazlo! ¡Date prisa!



The Little Mermaid took one look at the prince standing on the deck of the ship, and she knew she could never harm him. With nothing more to do, the Little Mermaid dove into the sea.

La Sirenita echó un vistazo al príncipe, parado sobre la cubierta del barco, y supo que nunca podría hacerle daño. Sin nada más que hacer, la Sirenita se lanzó al mar.

Instead of turning into foam, the Little Mermaid rose up into the air. Fairy spirits lifted her.

"Where am I?" she asked. She had a beautiful new voice.

"You are among the children of the air," they said. "You will be with us forever."

En lugar de convertirse en espuma, la Sirenita se elevó por los aires. Unas hadas la levantaban.

—¿Dónde estoy? —preguntó. Tenía una bella voz nueva.

—Estás entre los niños del aire —dijeron—. Estarás con nosotros para siempre.

The fairies explained. "You loved the prince so much, you gave your life for him. This deed won you a soul."

The Little Mermaid blew the prince a kiss and floated toward a cloud. Looking down on Earth, she was filled with great peace.

Las hadas lo explicaron. —Amaste tanto al príncipe, que diste tu vida por él. Esta acción te hizo ganar un alma.

La Sirenita le envió al príncipe un beso y flotó hacia una nube. Mirando hacia abajo a la Tierra, se sentía llena de una gran paz.

After Reading Activities

Show What You Know

1. How old was the Little Mermaid when she went above water?
2. Who did the Little Mermaid save?
3. What did the Little Mermaid give to the sea witch?
4. Who did the prince marry?
5. What happened to the Little Mermaid at the end of the story?

Write It!

Think about this story from a different character's point of view, such as the prince or the sea witch. Write the story they way that character might tell it. What is different when you think about a story from a different point of view?

Craft: Become a Mermaid

Supplies:

- photos of yourself, friends, and family
- glue
- glitter
- construction paper
- scissors

Directions:

Make sure you have an adult's permission to use the photos and the scissors. Draw and cut mermaid tails from construction paper. Glue the tails on a piece of blue construction paper. Cut photos of yourself and others from the waist up. Glue the cut photos above the mermaid tails. Use glue and glitter to make them sparkle!

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The Little Mermaid / *La Sirenita a Me*

The Little Mermaid longs to live on land with the prince she saved. Will she make a deal with the sea witch? And will the prince ever know who really saved him?

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